Message Text

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ACTION MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 CAB-02 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 /047 W ----- 041480

R 091151Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8917 INFO EC COLLECTIVE 68 AMEMBASSY ATHENS AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

CONFIDENTIAL THE HAGUE 4882

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: HAGUE CONVENTION AND HIJACKING

REF: (A) STATE 221434 (B) ATHENS 9452

1. AFTER DISCUSSING PROSPECTS FOR EC-9 DISCUSSION OF TERRORISM, MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR RUTTEN REFERRED TO WEEKEND KLM HIJACKING. HE SAID GON WAS CONCERNED THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT DID NOT ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH HAGUE CONVENTION WHEN TWO OF THE THREE HIJACKERS WERE FLOWN TO ATHENS. DUTCH BLIEVED GREEK AUTHORITIES SHOULD PROMPTLY HAVE ARRESTED THEM INSTEAD OF PERMITTING THEIR RETURN TO CYPRUS. UNFORTUNATLY, RUTTEN ADDED, DUTCH EMBASSY IN ATHENS LEARNED OF SITUATION TOO LATE TO APPROACH GOG SINCE HIJACKERS HAD ALREADY DEPARTED. IF GREEKS HAD ARRESTED THEM. DUTCH WOULD HAVE SOUGHT THEIR EXTRADITION. DUTCH UNDERSTOOD TWO HIJACKERS WERE NOW IN LEBANON, HAVING LEFT CYPRUS BY SHIP.

2. DUTCH WERE CONCERNED HAGUE CONVENTION HAD BEEN DISREGARDED IN THIS CASE, AS IN OTHERS, AND INTENDED TO URGE NEED FOR PARTIES TO RESPECT THEIR OBLIGATIONS CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDER HAGUE CONVENTION SINCE THIS COULD HAVE IMPORTANT

DETERRENT EFFECT.

3. DCM RESPONDED THAT WASHINGTON HAS INSTRUCTED EMBASSY IN ATHENS TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER WITH GOG ON BASIS OF HAGUE CONVENTION BUT THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAD ARRIVED AFTER JIJACKERS RETURNED TO CYPRUS, SO THAT WE HAD ONLY A FACTUAL REPORT ON WHAT HAD ACTUALLY OCCURRED AT ATHENS AIRPORT, WHICH DCM BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED ON BASIS ATHENS REPORT.

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To: STATE

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